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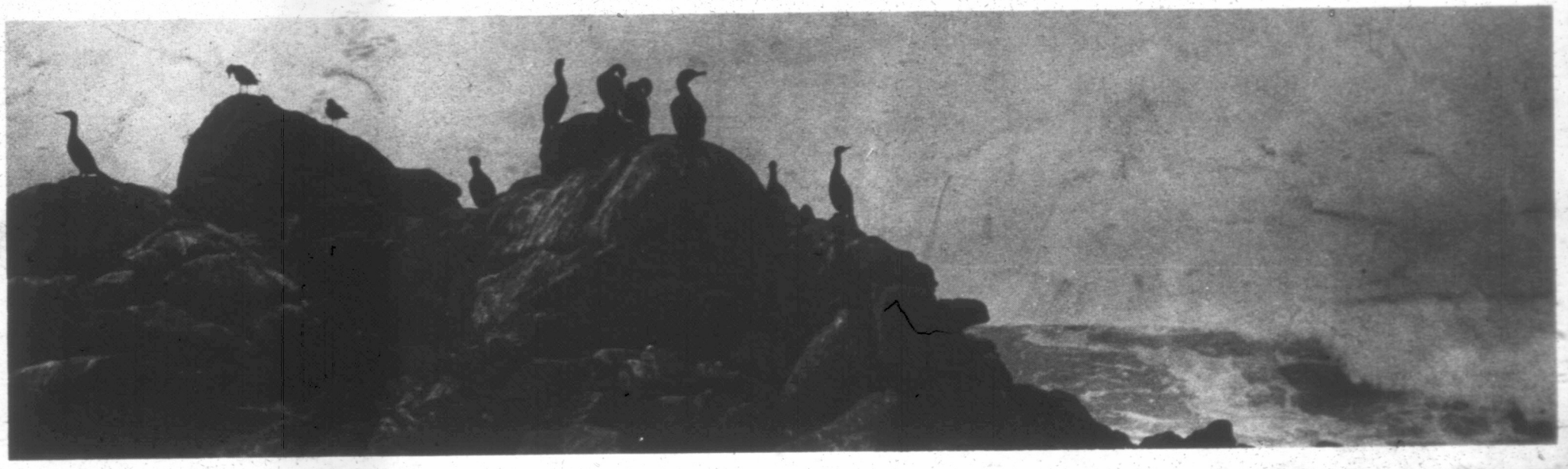

Featuring

- *The Carmel Highlands*
- *The Nude in Solarization*

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POINT LOBOS Photo by Wynn Bullock

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Carmel Highlands -- California's Brigadoon

Four miles south of Carmel lies the Brigadoon of California.

Standing on the white sand beach of Carmel near the Point, one sees through the distant mist the dramatic wedding of the pounding sea and the swift rising Santa Lucia Mountains.

There, where the granite scarps are interceded by the ocean, and the browsing clouds are threaded by trees filtered with smoky sunlight, lies the most elusive area of the Monterey Peninsula.

Timeless and ageless it is the Carmel Highlands, a land that holds its mysteries as closely as its Scottish namesake.

For on those moors walk the ghosts:

Of villages and would-be towns that have long since died and gone.

Of 70 Chinese coolies that were buried alive in California's first coal mine.

Of whaling ship captains that once waited their prey from its secluded sea wolves' coves.

Of buccanneers and bootleggers who exploited its secret shelter.

Of Indians that nearly two centuries previous brought gold from the Lost Mine of the Ventana to the Carmel Mission fathers.

Of a score of real estate speculators some of whom made and some of whom lost a fortune or two.

The Carmel Highlands, which was a settlement and well on its way to industrialization when Carmel was still a series of sand dunes, has yet to succumb to the full force of civilization.

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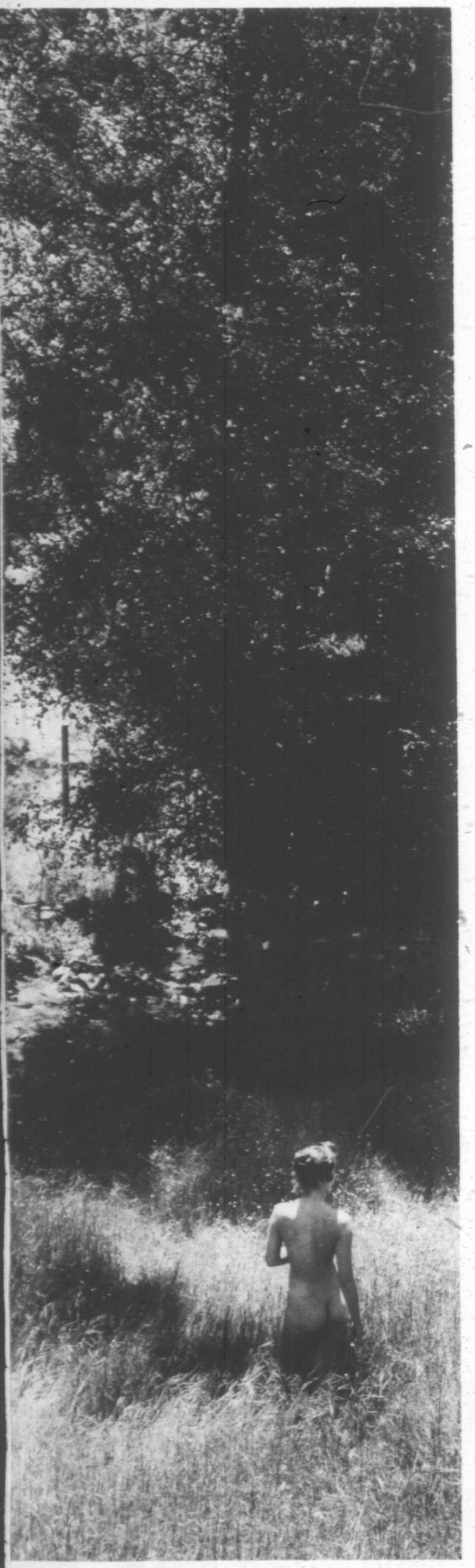


Like Brigadoon, much of its man-made past has vanished and today it has become one of the most individualistic residential areas retaining a goodly share of its virgin state.

The Carmel Highlands' orbit today is from the Carmelite Monastery south six miles to and including the Yankee Point Riviera subdivisions and inland perhaps four miles. Inland it quickly reaches elevations over 2,000 feet that level out in plateaus, canyons and divides. These are mostly large ranch holdings.

This total area has a population slightly in excess of 1,000 persons that represents a tripling in the past ten years. Most are congregated within two miles from the coast. This is based on the 293 electric meters that PG&E has happily installed thereabouts. Happily, because the area is confined to heating by fireplace, electric heaters, butane or oil. So far the utility concern has successfully convinced the State Utility Commission that it would be uneconomic for them to pioneer a gas line way out thar.

The Carmel Highlands orbit is a community without being an incorporated area or for that matter a neighborhood or a series of neighborly neighborhoods.

The Highlands identity hinges instead on its geography, a collection of architectural specimens, mansions, cabins and plain homes and people famous and not so famous, some who have the same interests and some who don't but all who have a common denominator of possessing independent natures.

Interestingly enough, in the past ten years nearly 80 per cent of the real estate sales in the area have been made to persons coming from outside of Monterey County.

Among its residents are: Dr. Henry S. Houghton, former head of the American University at Peking; Photographer Brett Weston, who recently built a new house; Neil Weston, who is purchasing the Wildcat Creek property of his famed father, Edward Weston, from his brothers; Artists Jean Kellogg and Ephraim Doner; Dr. Russell Williams; Lawyer Malcolm Millard; Labor Attorney Francis Heisler; Contractor Frank DeAmaral; defeated politician twice in a try for Congress, William Stewart; County Supervisor Tom Hudson; Economist N. J. D'Ambrogio; John Nesbitt, TV star and *Passing Parade* author-narrator; the widow of marine landscape painter William Ritschel; Dairyman T. F. Riley and Rear Admiral L. J. Hudson, whose wives are daughters of early Point Lobos settler, A. M. Allan.

Among its many landowner weekend commuters are C. Wesley Wright, Palo Alto throat specialist, and R. F. Inwood, church architect, who commutes weekends to his wife and Highlands house from Los Angeles.

Planning to build on a mountain he recently purchased near the Peter Pan Lodge is Author Oakley Hall, whose book, *Warlock*, was recently sold to the movies. Another new land purchaser is actress Jean Arthur, who also owns a home on Carmel Point.

These names chosen at random more or less show the diverse complexion of the Highlands population today.

The Highlands orbit without doubt can claim the adjacent Point Lobos, which is one of the most unusual park preserves in the State. Its 350-odd acres of natural wilderness, visited by a half million people each year, contain 300 species of plant life and an equal number of vertebrate and invertebrate animals.

Commercially the Highlands orbit is almost insignificant as a community. It has its expansive luxury hotel, Highlands Inn, a new motel, Tickle Pink, a small cozy inn, Peter Pan Lodge, another scenic restaurant near the proximity of its borders, Rocky Point.

It has two real estate offices, a service station and a firehouse.

Institutional-wise it has a powerhouse of prayer in its Carmelite Monastery, whose nuns continue the remote heritage of the area and their order, by devoting their lives to praying and not being seen by human eyes from the outside.

In dramatic contrast is its Carmel Parent Nursery School, housed in the little red schoolhouse of yesteryear that for so long dished out the 3 R's to Highlands youngsters until the area ran out of kids of the right ages.

Despite these apparently disjointed loose ends the Highlands remains an identity and a community unto itself.

This becomes doubly peculiar when one realizes that it is not a country community where everyone knows everyone and most of his business.

The closest thing to a social interest occurs when the Monterey County bookmobile visits the area every two weeks. Then even those prone to making three trips a day to Carmel take time out to socialize and pick up books at this rare County institution.

Continued

The Highland's vast back country where one can be four miles from Carmel and seemingly ten million miles to nowhere are shown in photos on this page. Orchestrations of the surf on opposite page was taken at Point Lobos. Highlands pictures are by Wynn Bullock.

Although friends are often made here the Highlands prerogative for making acquaintances but not adopting friends is maintained.

This sense of remoteness, enjoyed by the residents, was dramatically demonstrated a few years back when it inadvertently abetted an abortion ring. The mill operated for over a year in one of the Highlands' most expensive homes. It was finally disturbed by the San Francisco cops who were tipped off by a disgruntled patient.

Highlanders were a little astonished to read about it in the papers and confessed that few of them had ever heard of their new neighbors.

The often disputed boundaries of the Highlands as well as its present residential character resulted from a long circuitous route of history.

In the early 1800's a Spanish governor paid off a gambling debt to a couple of soldiers by granting them the Rancho San Jose Y Sur Chiquito. This 10,000 acre spread extended from the Carmel River to the Little Sur River and inland as far as a "damn good horse could walk in a day."

In 1884 the land grand was consolidated in the hands of a J. S. Emery, later a founder of Emeryville near Oakland, and an N. W. Spalding. They sought and obtained a Federal survey. The survey gained much legality through its printing in the Monterey *Argus*, the legal paper of the area and the San Francisco *Chronicle*. After meeting these legal requirements the survey and ownership were verified by the Federal Land Office in 1888.

The area was known as the Rancho San Jose Y Sur Chiquito and extended from the Carmelo River to the Little Sur River. It consisted of 8,816 acres and included Point Lobos.

At the Carmel River it was joined by the Rancho Canada De La Segunda, which contained the present site of Carmel.

Inland it was bordered by the Rancho San Carlos, the only one of the three ranches that is largely still intact today containing 20,000 acres that extend into Carmel Valley and into the back country of the Santa Lucias.

The survey has been the authority for title transactions since and appears to have been quite accurate, with the exception that the coast in some cases extended farther out than indicated on the map. Confronted later with this error, the surveyors excused the mistake as a result of fog that obscured the true shoreline.

The map indentifies a lot of the area's early history that appeared hell-bent for industrialization.

Given great prominence is the coal mine that may well have changed the course of history of the entire area if the coal had been of better quality, sufficient quantity, and oil had not made such a quick headway in California.

The mine is about two miles inland today from the Highlands Inn. Its operation began shortly after the Civil War. The survey map shows three roads leading to the mine including a graded railroad that swung down to Point Lobos.

It was operated off and on to the turn of the century when it became defunct.

Clearly marked on the map is the old Whaling Station at Point Lobos. The sheltered coves of Point Lobos had been used by explorers, pirates, and fishermen practically from the day that the Spaniards discovered Carmel Bay.

Lobos, which was first the site of an Indian Village, came into its whaling days between 1855 to 1870. During the early part of this period it also functioned as a base for the fishermen of the world who were madly hunting sea otters along the California coast. In a five year period the fishermen managed to kill off about 50,000 otters, which pretty well finished the fur bearers and put them under government protection.

The whales hung around until the seventies when they disappeared. Today the only reminder is a more recent return migration up and down the coast yearly and a broken-down old skeleton of a whale off one of Point Lobos's coves.

During the same period, a redwood lumber mill was operated in the Palo Colorado Canyon and a lime quarry was in full swing near Bixby Creek.

From the late 1880's to 1908 much of the land changed hands and the future of the Highlands changed, too.

The name Highlands supposedly grew out of the number of Scots that began settling there and the natural resemblance of its coastline to Scotland.

Many Scottish sailors jumped ship and settled or squatted on land in its hills. A few remains of some of their old cabins still exist in the back country.

A village grew up around where the T. F. Riley dairy is at Point Lobos today. It contained a roadhouse, blacksmith and a general store.

In the 1890's attempts were made to found a town, Carmelito, on Point Lobos proper. Years later its buildings were torn down by A. M. Allan.

During this period Joseph Victorine, a Portuguese whaler, gave up fishing and bought a large section of the Rancho San Jose. By 1911 his property, which is now the Yankee Point Riviera subdivisions and the land lying east of the highway contained 1100 acres. It became known as the Victorine Ranch.

In addition to running cattle the Portuguese sailor began the manufacture of cheese. He is supposed to have taught the Monterey Jacks family the secret and the Jacks, who were more heavily financed, soon began selling the cheese around the world under the name Monterey Jack Cheese.

During the 90's a large section of Rancho San Jose came into the hands of the Bassett brothers. They formed a corporation, the *Carmel Land and Coal Company*, to develop the area.

They built new roads from the coal mine to Point Lobos and chutes at whalers' cove to load ships. Chinese labor was used to mine the coal.

Hardly had the operation been renewed than one catastrophe followed another.

A steamer loading in the cove exploded. The high gaseous content of the coal was blamed. All aboard were killed.

Continued

Carmel Highlands -- California's Brigadoon

Shortly thereafter a cave-in buried 70 Chinese laborers alive. After this for all practical purposes the mine was abandoned.

Many theories have sprung up around the accident. One that it was just another cave-in. Others say that the corporation was out of funds and wiped out the Chinese to clear its debts.

Still another is that several cases of smallpox occurred and that the Chinese were herded in to the mine tunnel and exterminated with explosives to prevent the spread of the plague.

In those days the Chinese were considered a yellow peril in California and were not held too dearly.

Very little of the mine entrance can be seen today. It is located at the juncture of the Allan estate and the old Victorine Ranch, now owned by Charles Sawyer.

At the mine entrance halfway up the canyon wall are some shaft timbers, a few giant iron wheels, broken-down coal carts and half-buried narrow gauge railroad tracks. The entrance is also the source of several underground springs and is overrun with brush. On nearby banks are tailings of coal, difficult to burn.

The mine originally had a vein about a half a dozen yards in diameter which may have been thrust to the top of the surface by an earthquake. Its depth into the mountain is not known.

Incidentally the mine was one of two that operated completely indepent of each other in Monterey County. The other is near King City on the Bradley Ranch in Stone Mountain. It too met with catastrophe. During World War I a heavy flood washed out a 25 mile rail spur that connected it with the Southern Pacific at San Miguel. This plus the fact that the coal was of poor quality discouraged further operations.

The Highlands coal field's major significance in light of the present is that it brought the A. M. Allan dynasty to the Peninsula.

Allan, a building contractor, left his native Chicago to build a race track at Emeryville near Oakland. There Emery, who still retained some interest in the mining corporation and a large portion of the land and timber rights of Rancho San Jose, interested him in the coal mine.

According to his daughter, Mrs. Hudson, Allan originally planned to operate the mine on purchasing it. However, after his brother was killed in a Pennsylvania coal mine accident he changed his mind.

Allan, a shrewd Scot, saw the value of the property in its timber and land assets, and moved to the Peninsula. He built a house and a dairy at Point Lobos, started a sand quarry near the mouth of San Jose Creek, and for a while established an abalone canning factory at Point Lobos' Carmelito village.

Years later when visitors constantly entered the area to enjoy its wonderful environs he erected a toll gate on the property. The park acreage was sold to the State for a tidy $650,000 in 1933 shortly after Allan's death. Much of the other land acquisitions of Allan are retained by his heirs.

Allan, incidentally, also filed on most of the mineral rights of the area. What engendered this move is not known. Some say that about the turn of the century legends were still persistent about the Lost Mine of the Ventana.

The legend goes that the mine is a day's walking distance from the Carmel Mission. It is supposed to be directly southeast of the giant white scar one sees on the face of the Santa Lucias on leaving Carmel. The name of the mine, Ventana, means window. Supposedly the Mission could be seen from the mine's window, the mountain peak.

The Indians brought the nuggets to the Church fathers, who swore them to secrecy as to its source.

Charles Clark, a Carmel attorney writing about the mine in the *Overland Monthly* in 1916, theorized that the mine was probably buried in an earthquake and that any church records of it were probably lost when the missions were secularized.

He tells of a client, the son of a Spanish Don, who told him of many search parties made to find the mine after a faithful Indian servant in a burst of confidence one day told of finding the mine.

The Indian led them to the canyon but in the intervening years an earthquake had displaced the stream of golden nuggets. Much of the Highlands area is fed by underground rivers and springs.

The mine, fact or fancy, is still a mystery. However, Allan managed to mine his mineral rights. When the *San Remo Development Co.* subdivided a portion of the old Victorine ranch in 1928 they paid Allan $50,000 for its mineral rights. The land was purchased from the Victorine family. According to California law one must own the mineral rights of an area in order to subdivide.

In 1906 three new names became prominent in the Highlands' history, J. F. Devendorf, Frank Powers and Seth Ulman.

At the turn of the century Devendorf and Powers had formed the *Carmel Development Company* to found and subdivide the Carmel sand dunes.

They hired an energetic young salesman, Seth Ulman, just out of Exeter Academy, to sell the lots. Ulman sold a slew of Carmel's priceless waterfront and Ocean Avenue lots for prices that would make Carmel realtors shudder today.

Waterfront sand dune lots on famous Scenic Drive, now worth $15,000 and up, were hawked for as little as $100 to $500 each, with as little as $10 to $50 down and $10 a month.

Even so, the land was not exactly grabbed up and many were skeptical of Ulman's rash claims that some day the lots would be worth $2500 each.

When Ulman ran out of clients, which was often, he began exploring the Highlands area, and convinced Devendorf and Powers of its possibilities for a site for class living.

Devendorf purchased a Highland tract of 600 acres from another Scot, Tom Work. Work is said to have been glad to get rid of the land because he was losing too many cows off its sharp cliffs.

The tract ran from Gibson Creek two miles south to the original Yankee Point and inland about 3/4 of a mile. It did not include the Point Lobos Property of the Allans.

Unlike Carmel which was broken up into lots as small as 50 feet, the idea behind the Highlands was for large acre sites that would attract big estates. Each piece of land was divided in such a manner that all had access to bridle path right-of-ways. They led down to the beach at Yankee Point. The beach is still a private beach for Highland residents and the right-of-ways still exist. Some of the land, through the years, was parceled off into sites smaller than an acre, but a recent County zoning ordinance has restricted building sites to no less than one acre per residence.

The original tract did not move too fast. Most of the clients were from out of town and were put up in the swank old Hotel Del Monte, now the Naval Postgraduate School.

It so happened that Samuel Morse about this time had decided on making Pebble Beach a site of class living. Before Ulman could get to his clients, Morse had them whisked off to the 17-mile Drive, where, charmed with "the great meeting of sea and land," they purchased land.

As a result, Devendorf and Powers decided to build a hotel of their own to house potential clients. The Highlands Inn was started in 1915 and completed in 1917. Later it was sold to the Shaw sisters and operated by Senator Tickle, who married one of the sisters. After World War II it was purchased by a corporation, headed by Robert J. Ramsey.

The Highlands Inn today, located in the center of the area half-way up a mountain and overlooking the ocean, is a sprawling 131-bed luxury hotel that has its own dining room, view cocktail lounges, wedding chapel and a heated swimming pool.

It is managed by able Hotelman Fritz Hartung, who once ran the Del Monte Lodge, and is the new president of the Highlands Association. This organization, made up of property owners, functions as a watchdog to maintain the residential character of the community.

Many of the elaborate mansions in the Highlands were built in the late teens or early 1920's. Among these are some of the houses on Spindrift Rd., including the castle Martin Flavin built, Artist Ritschel's fortress and the old English manor house, now owned by Architect Inwood. Early pictures show few trees on the coast properties west of the highway. This is even true of the new Yankee point subdivision, which only had a single tree on its knoll as late as 1928.

In 1928 speculator Ulman organized another development, the San Remo subdivisions on the Southern boundaries of the original Highlands tract. A group, made up of his father and San Francisco road contractor Henry Claudius purchased 1183 acres of the Victorine ranch. They put in roads and got ready for a big real estate bonanza. Unfortunately the stock market crashed and an investment of over $300,000 was lost as real estate values tumbled.

Contractor Claudius in addition lost another $150,000 in the market and later committed suicide.

The Victorines, who had not been fully paid, took over the property, which they held until Charles Sawyer acquired it in 1948.

He renamed the area west of the highway *Yankee Point Riviera* and began subdividing; so far two subdivisions have been put on the market.

These were slow getting underway but recently have enjoyed a boom, as have land values. In the newest addition of 100 sites put on the market this year after Sawyer developed his own water system, all but 16 sites have been sold. The Yankee Point sites average 4/10 of an acre. Homes built by the individual buyers average in the $25,000 to $50,000 bracket.

Sawyer's vast acreage eas of the Highway has not been subdivided, although some individual acreage has been sold.

The Highlands has been enjoying a real estate boom generally. Five years ago it was regarded as a sleeper area on the Monterey Peninsula, but this is not necessarily true today.

Although it contains much undeveloped land, there is little chance of much of the area being subdivided. The acreage required is more suited to individual development and many of the landholders, who bought in the area for privacy, have no intention of selling off their acreage at present.

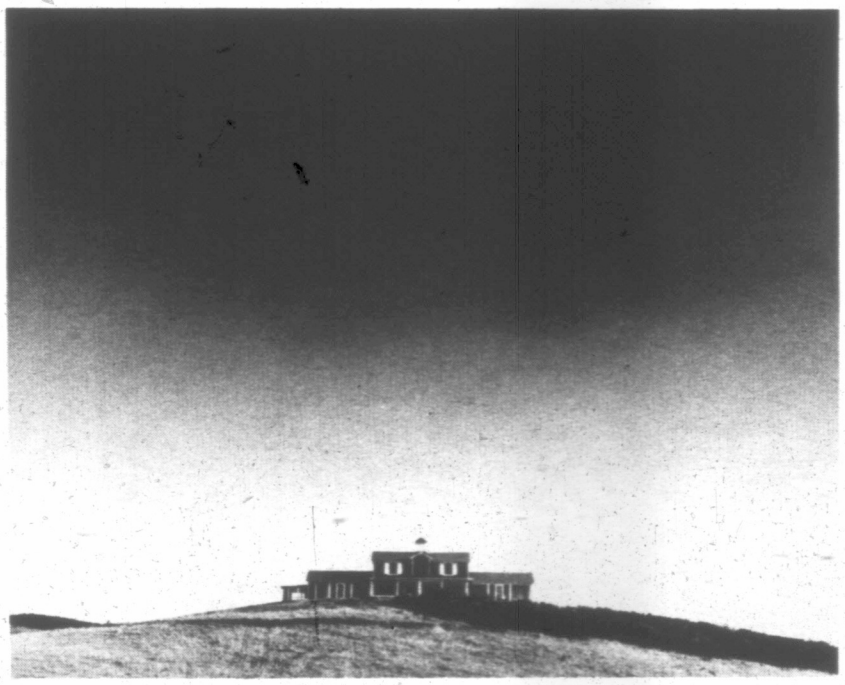
Land prices are difficult to describe. They depend largely on the site and the view. They range from $3000 to $30,000 an acre depending on their proximity to the ocean. Lots next door without the view go for as little as $500. Similarly houses vary in prices. A rustic studio may be bought for $12,000 while a more elaborate house has sold for as high as $500,000.

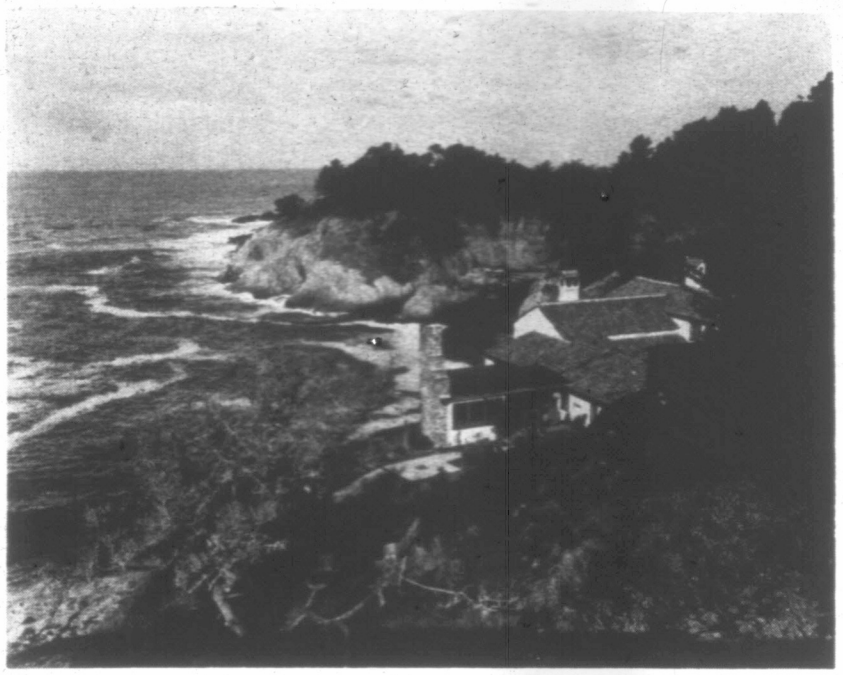
One of the biggest purchases recently was made by a Palo Alto doctor, C. Wesley Wright, who purchased 840 acres that extends from a couple of miles from the Highlands Inn to the San Carlos ranch. It includes the famed Highlands Cathedral of Redwoods, a group of trees that looks like church spires, and is fed by underground springs.

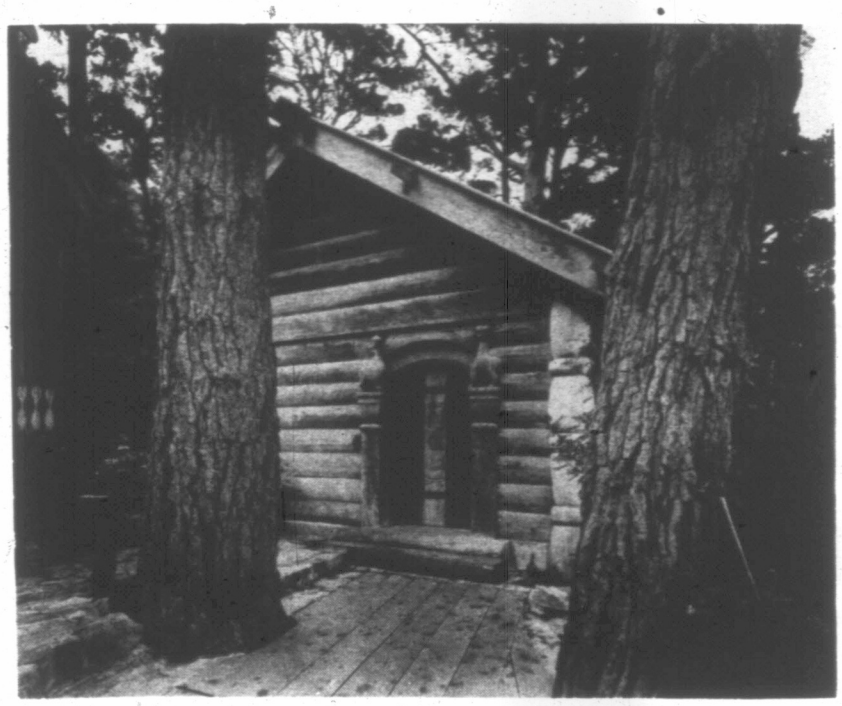
Wright, who has another home in the Highlands and one in Atherton, moved a Kentucky stable to his hillside from Palo Alto, which he is remodeling into a house at the crest of his land. The site commands vistas of the Big Sur coast, Point Lobos and Carmel Valley.

Still another big landowner in the Highlands is the Stuyvesant Fish family which owns a ranch that stretches for eight miles.

It is evident today that Highlands with its highly individualistic society, virgin areas and large landowners, will despite continued accelerated growth, avoid the full forces of twentieth century civilization for some time to come.







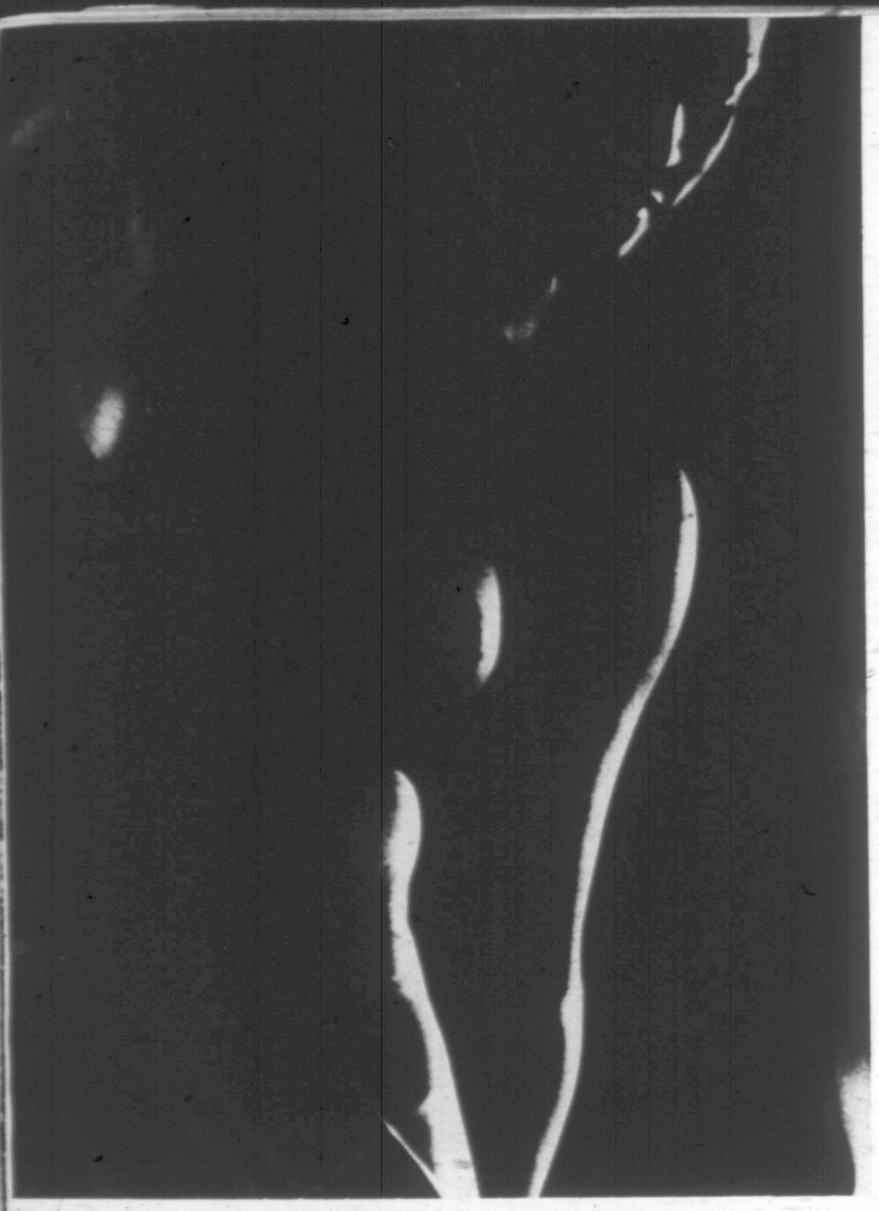
Part of the Highlands' character is in its diverse architecture, which ranges from rustic cabins to unique mansions, and seems to blend into the fairylike coast.

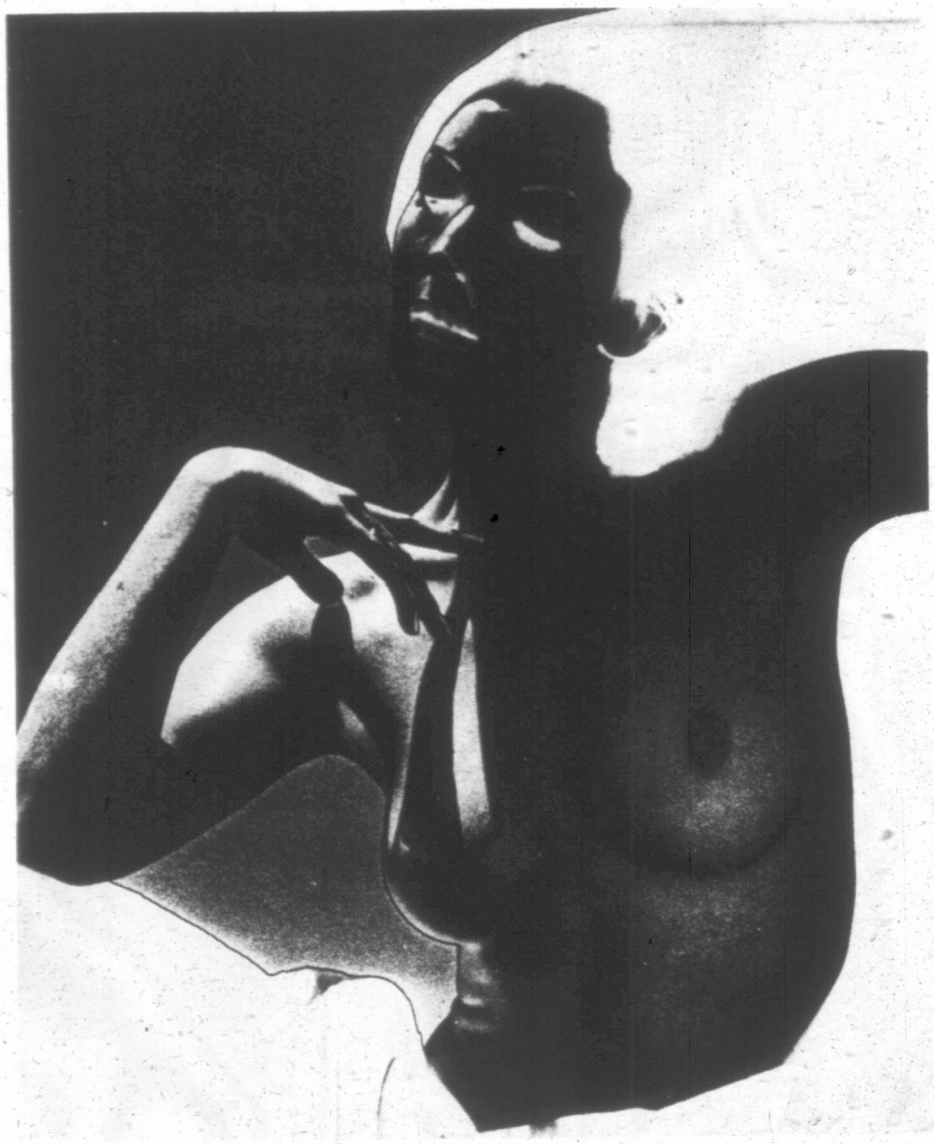
Atop the strip of photos is the Kentucky stable, hauled from Atherton and being remodeled into a home on the summit of the Highlands. Its owner is Dr. C. Wesley Wright who recently purchased some 800 acres of the wilderness area.

At the entrance of Palo Colorado Canyon is the ranch house of Electa Grimes, built in 1870, when the area was the center of a redwood tanbark and milling operation. Typical of houses growing out of the Highland's cliff is the Spanish tile mansion below.

One of the most unusual structures is the Norway cottage. Built by Mrs. Maude Reynolds, the eccentric wife of a Colorado mining man, it cost over $80,000 to build in 1918. It is a replica of a Norwegian hunting lodge. Norwegian cratsmen were imported to build the house, which was constructed without the use of nails.

At the top left is an old English Cottage that is part of an estate on Spindrift Road. At the bottom is probably one of the most expensive one-bedroom homes on the Monterey Peninsula. It grows out of the rocks with hand-made bricks that match the cliffs from which it is cantilevered over the ocean. Photos by Wynn Bullock.





NUDE IN SOLARIZATION

Lensman Wynn Bullock is famous for his nudes photographed in the scenic country of the Highlands and Big Sur.

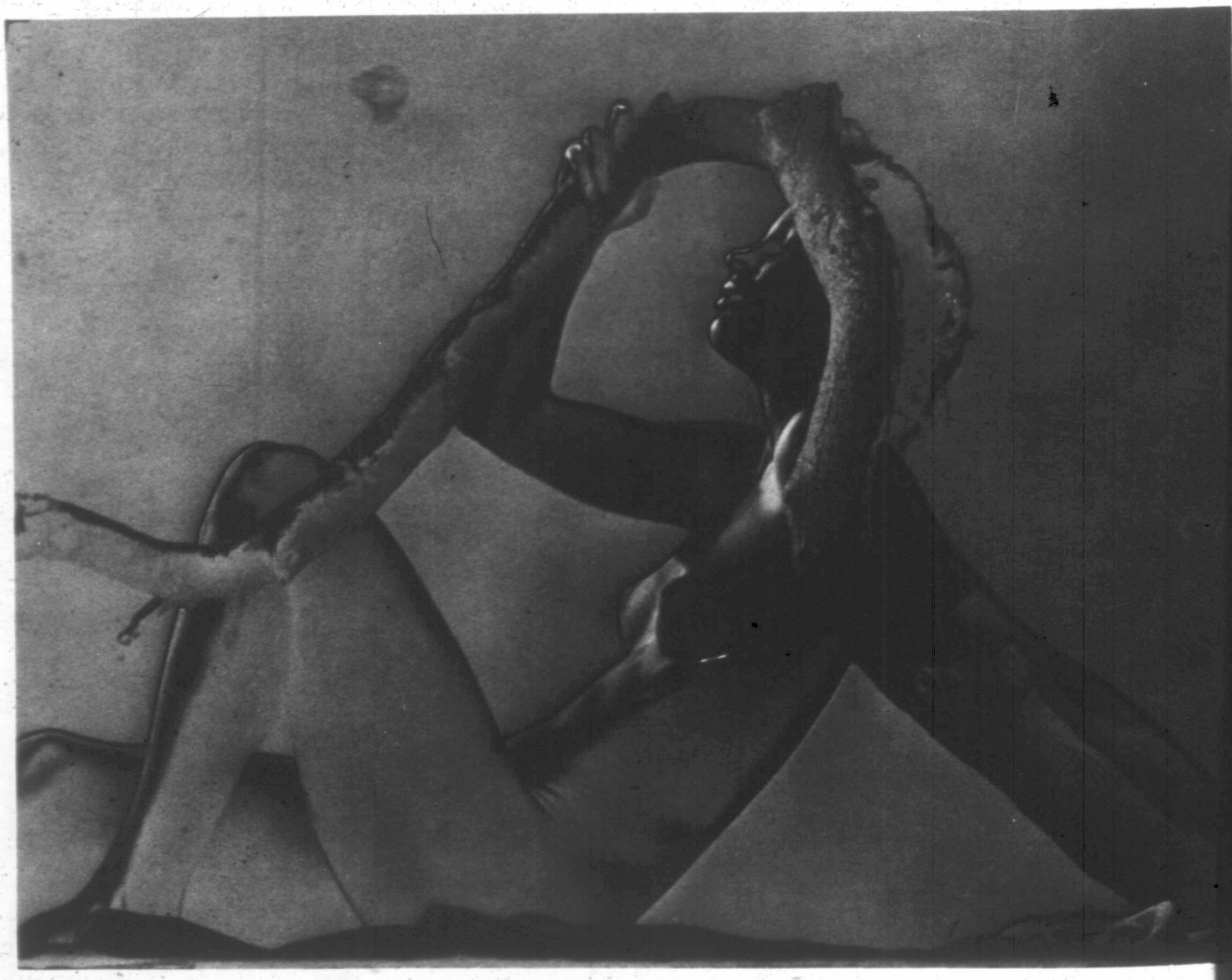
A photographer who loves experimentation, he has produced some nude photos in dramatic contrast to the others by use of partial solarization. Its effects are quite startling.

Solarization is a process of developing film where the negative is fogged during its development by exposure to light.

The process is old with the exception that Bullock has invented a method whereby he can control the line and the amount of shading desired in various areas of the picture. He holds patents in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain for the process.

The pictures, published for the first time, were exhibited in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art where they created quite a stir among artists.

The solarization process has many commercial uses in medical filming, the photography of silverware and jewelry, as well as interesting art effects.



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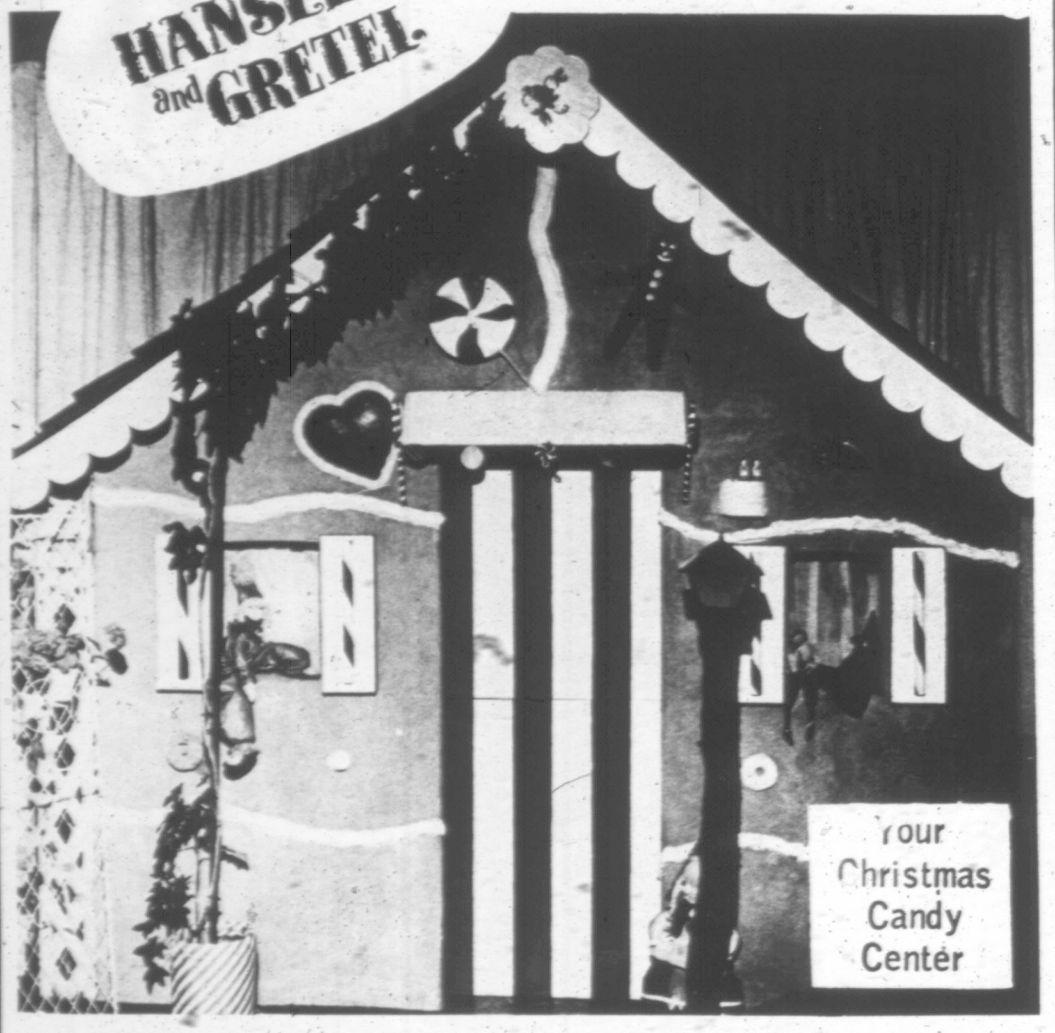

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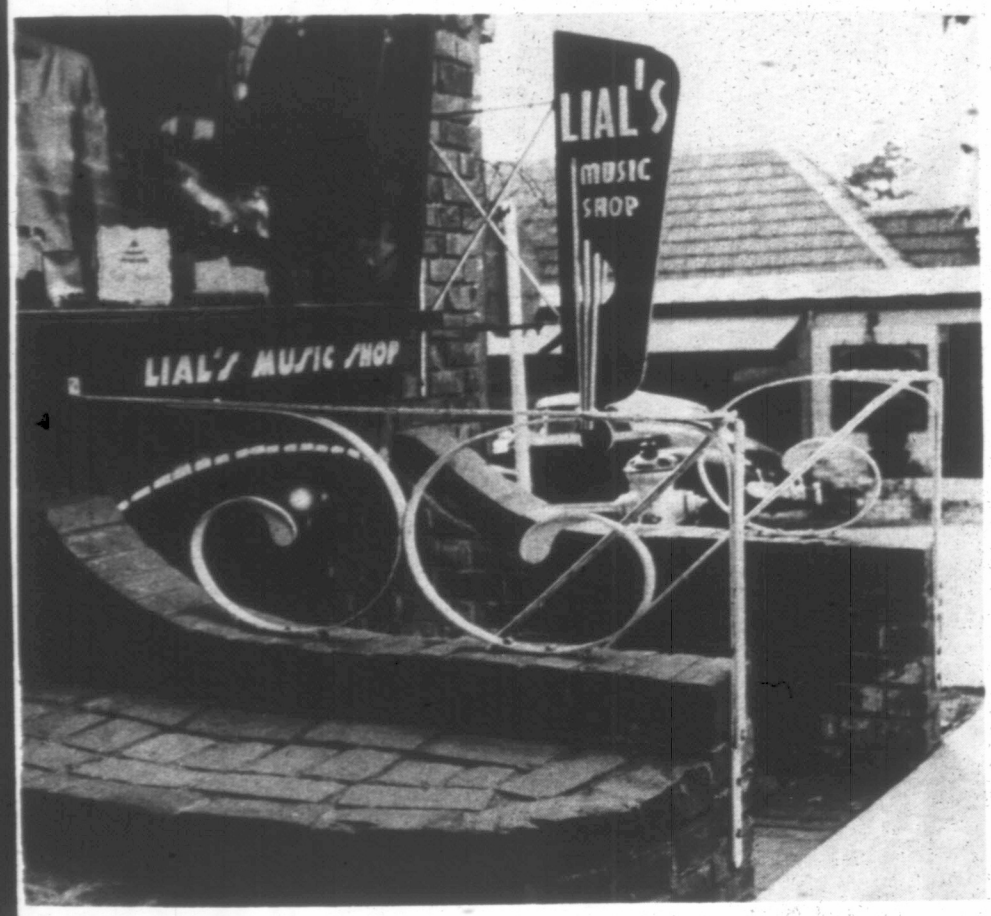

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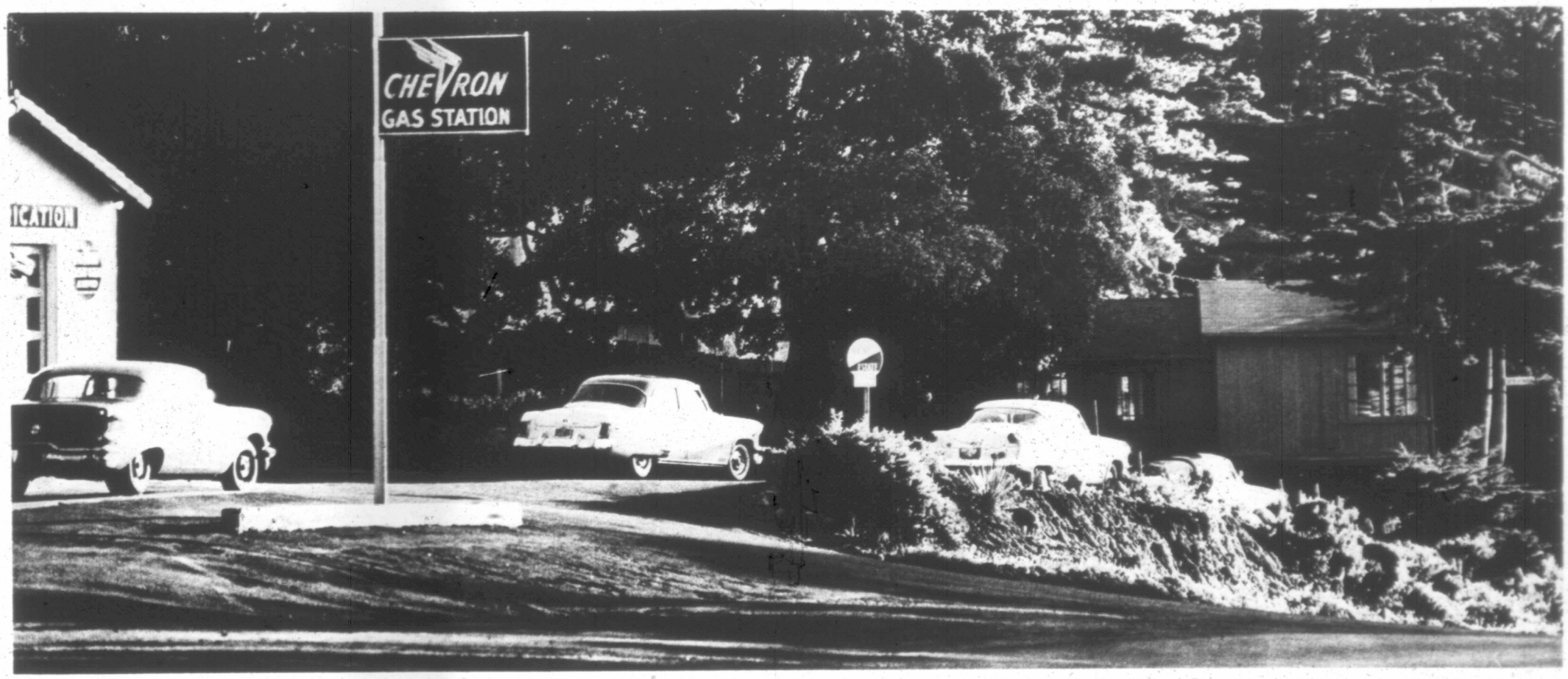

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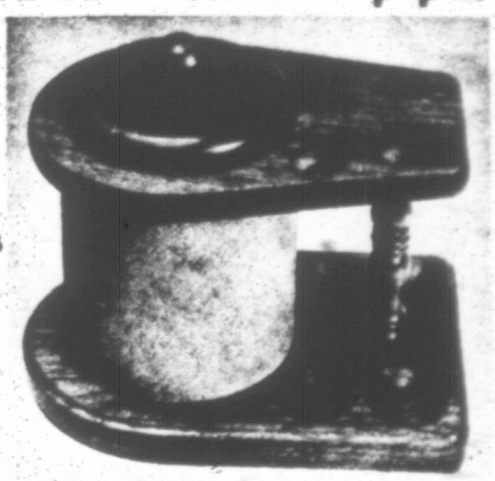

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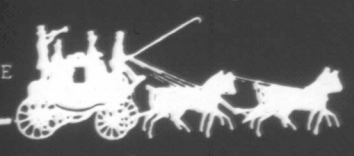

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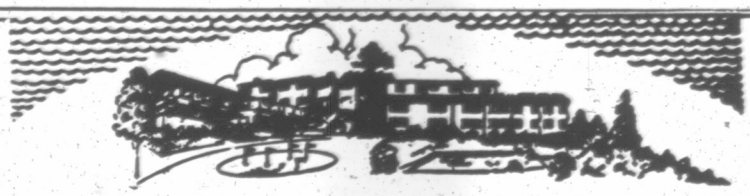

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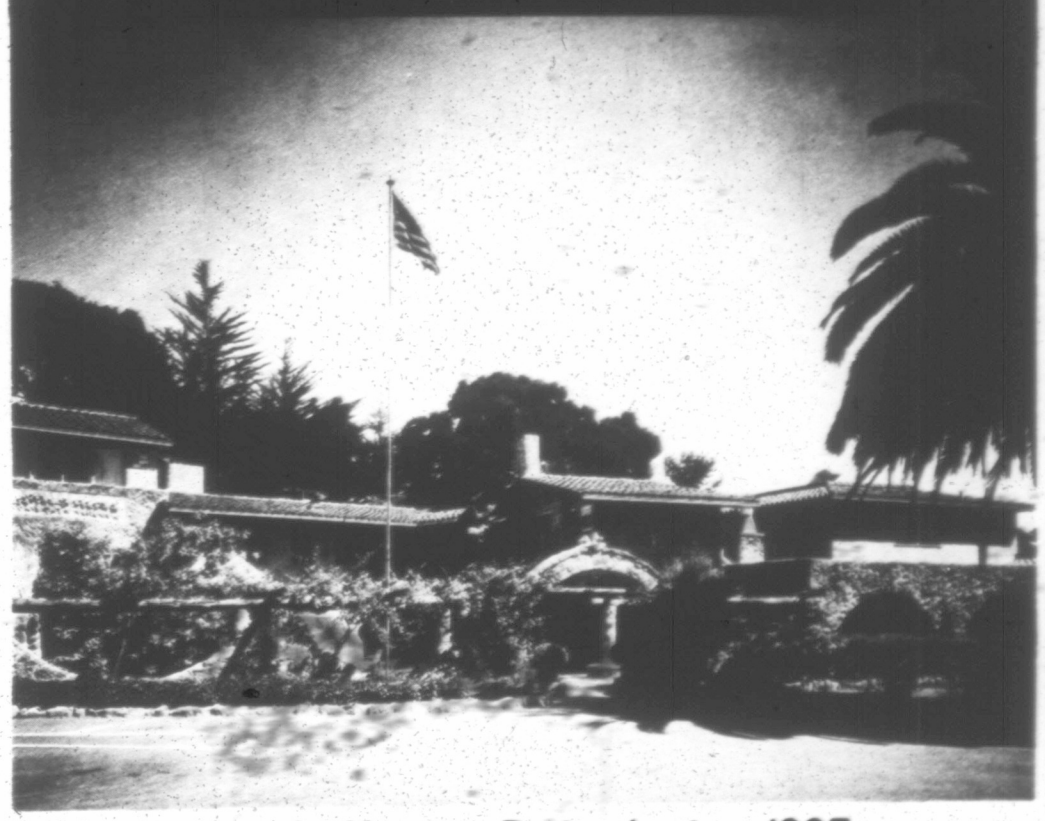

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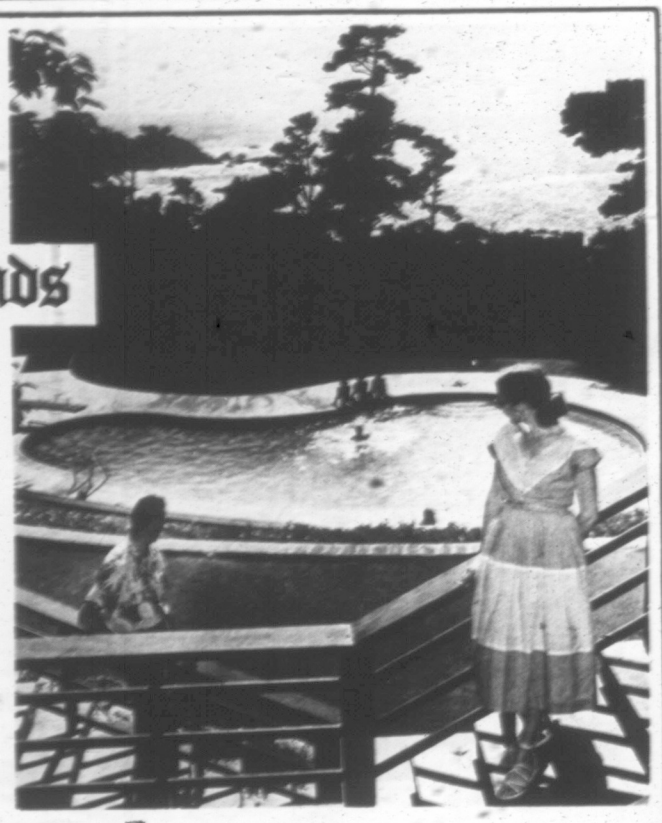

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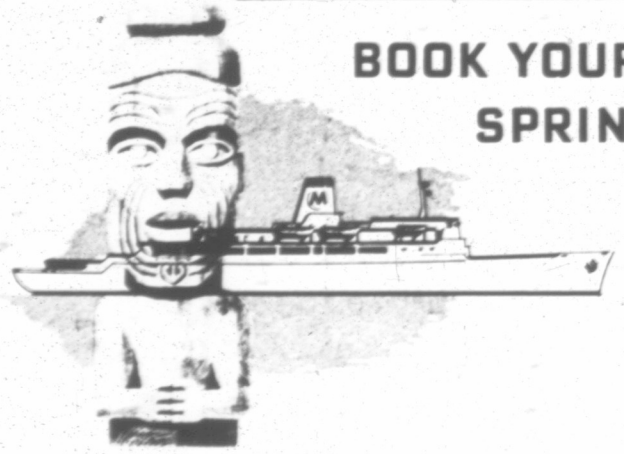

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ALADDIN IN CARMEL

Mr. Winter, the proprietor of THE VILLAGE JEWELER, has received the following clipping, written by a roving reporter who was greatly taken with the array of wondrous things in his Dolores Street shop.

"Aladdin, lost in his cave and putting out his hand to the trees which bore the fruits of glorious color and fashioned of precious stones, was no more astounded than is the Carmel visitor who just happens into the 'ear-ring' shop. It can't be, one thinks, on being told that there is a place whose sole stock in trade is earrings. It is altogether unlikely that a merchant would say, 'This one thing I do,' and then stick to ear-rings, of all things.

"And it isn't quite that way, really, because there are a few—a very few—other bits of jewelry to be found in this little cave. But these are far outshown by the main item, a piece de resistance which whets but never satisfies the appetite.

"Recently a New York salesman unloaded his sample cases before the doorway of this small establishment. He came as missionary to unknown parts, for isn't Carmel, California, a tiny hinterland village which tries hard but doesn't quite know how? On stepping inside, he fell back, dismayed. 'Oh, no!' was his shout of disbelief. There was no need for missionary work here—not in his department, anyhow.

"The Village Jeweler,' whose astute owners have collected all this loot and put it under one roof, literally has the largest and most surprising display of ear-rings in the United States. No foolin.' And it takes a mighty stout-hearted woman to pass up the feast.

"Did your grandmother own some beautifully wrought bracelets of soft gold, with classic designs running through the pattern? And, having had these appraised, have you taken them down to the bank for safe keeping? You can match them here in ear-rings, and at a painless price. Persons knowing the value of Grandma's keepsakes will be properly impressed at the ear-rings you have chosen to go with them, and you can save the price of an extra safety deposit box.

"Every color of the spectrum, softly muted, is here, in ascending or decending scale, as to hues and shades and tints. If it's azure or lapis Lazuli or rose or emerald or amethyst or topaz or gold or silver you prefer, you mention it. At once you find yourself in the predicament of the fellow who likes pie and is let loose in the cafeteria where the chef has out-done himself this day with apple and peach and cherry and lemon and chocolate and gooseberry and blueberry and raisin and custard and currant and squash and mince. He can't eat them all but he's happier than larks in the pop-corn.

"There are whole trays of each color, quite by itself. And these range in style from what you would wear to your Grand-Aunt Emma's tea for the ladies' knitting group to something dazzling for a night on the town in company with six drunken sailors. You accept a lapful of jewels from the trusting soul who is the proprietor and have yourself a big time. All HE has to do is hope your check won't bounce.

"There is something barbaric in almost every female. She 'hates' jewelry maybe, but when she says 'jewelry' she almost never means little things to stick in her ears. Count the number of women you see who are not wearing brooches, bracelets, rings, necklaces or tiaras but who are wearing ear-rings. That's because The Little Woman feels kind of undressed without them. The Village Jewelers is for the likes of her. And it's worth the trip—from ANY distance." —

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